



DR. TERRY DWELLE APPOINTED SECRETARY-TREASURER OF FOREMOST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

(Washington, D.C.) January 12, 2007 – North Dakota State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, MD, will serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the nation's leading organization of chief state health officials beginning January 12, 2007

ASTHO, whose roots go back to the battles against cholera epidemics in the 1800s, is the leading voice for state and territorial public health initiatives across the nation. It supports work on a wide range of state, national, and global public health issues including emerging infectious diseases; chronic disease prevention; pandemic, natural disaster, and bioterrorism preparedness; environmental health; access to care; and infrastructure and systems development.

"Dr. Dwelle is an outstanding member of the state public health community and a strong contributor to ASTHO's vital work," said ASTHO Executive Director Paul E. Jarris, MD, MBA. "He has been a dedicated member of ASTHO for many years, serving on a number of committees and most recently served as the Representative to ASTHO's Executive Committee for HHS Regions 7 and 8. We are excited he has accepted a national leadership role as an officer of ASTHO."

Dr. Dwelle was appointed to the office of North Dakota State Health Officer by Governor John Hoeven in October 2001. Previously, Dr. Dwelle served as chief medical officer for the department.

As state health officer, Dr. Dwelle provides leadership to the North Dakota Department of Health, an agency of more than 300 professionals who work to protect and enhance the health of every North Dakotan. Under Dr. Dwelle's direction, the department works to provide creative public health solutions to the health and environmental issues facing the state.

In his role as state health officer, Dr. Dwelle advises the Governor and the State Health Council and provides direction to the Department of Health on issues ranging from emergency response to disease outbreaks. He leads his staff in collaborating with local public health units, private health-care providers, and other stakeholders and partners to provide the public with information about how to make healthy lifestyle choices and prevent the spread of disease. He also focuses on building partnerships with organizations, businesses and schools across the state to address high-risk behaviors and provide a framework to support healthy choices.

Under Dr. Dwelle's leadership, the development of information technology systems has been a focus for the Department of Health. In 2006, the department received the Outstanding Achievement in Digital Government Award from the Information Technology Council of North Dakota. The department was recognized for its foresight, innovation and implementation of information technology in service to the public. In addition, Dr. Dwelle was instrumental in developing an electronic disease management system for use at the Spirit Lake Asthma Disease Management Clinic, where he sees pediatric patients one day a week.

Dr. Dwelle earned his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine, graduating cum laude. He later received a master's degree in public health and tropical medicine from Tulane University.

Dr. Dwelle has worked with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Indian Health Service. In addition, Dr. Dwelle headed development of the Community Health Evangelism Program in East Africa, where he also served as a medical missionary.

Dr. Dwelle is a member of the National Medical Honor Society and the Honor Public Health Society. He also was the recipient of St. Louis University School of Medicine's *Benjamin H. Cohen Award for Pediatric Residents*, the Indian Health Service's *Pediatric Teaching and Consultation Recognition Award*, the UND Family Practice's *Excellence in Teaching Award*, and Evangel College's *Distinguished Alumnus Award*.

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

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